

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claim 260 is pending in this application. Claims 71-89, 108-128, 147-164, 183-202, 215-234 and 241-259 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claim 260 is sought to be added.

Support for new claim 260 can be found, *inter alia*, on page 52, lines 7-17 and page 51, lines 12-16 of the specification.

Applicants have amended the specification to clarify the priority claim and to update the status of certain applications. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.84 and 1.121, Applicants provide herewith replacement sheets of Figures 1 and 2. The text of the drawings has been enlarged to be at least 0.32 cm (1/8 inch) in height and the margins have been changed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(g). Applicants request that the original filed figures be replaced with the replacement sheets provided herewith.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Enablement

The Examiner has rejected claims 120, 122, 126 and 128 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for allegedly "failing to comply with the enablement requirement." (Paper No. 200407, p. 3.) Applicants respectfully traverse.

Solely in an effort to expedite prosecution and without acquiescence in the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 120, 122, 126 and 128. Thus, Applicants believe that the Examiner's rejection is now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 108, 111, 119, 120, and 122 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) for allegedly being anticipated by Zhang *et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse.

Solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, and without acquiescence in the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 108, 111, 119, 120, and 122. Thus, Applicants believe that the Examiner's rejection is now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 119, 120, 122, 123, 125, 126 and 128 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Walker *et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse.

Solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, and without acquiescence in the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 119, 120, 122, 123, 125, 126 and 128. Thus, Applicants believe that the Examiner's rejection is now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 108, 111, 113, 119, 120, 122, 123, 125, 126 and 128 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Zhang *et al.* in view of Fuerst *et al.* (WO 91/04051). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, and without acquiescence in the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 108, 111, 113, 119, 120, 122, 123, 125, 126 and 128 and added new claim 260. New claim 260 recites "A linked polypeptide comprising a peptide consisting of the sequence AIFQSSMTK (SEQ ID NO:14442) linked to the universal T helper epitope comprising the peptide aKXVWANTLKAAa...." Neither Zhang nor Fuerst suggest this specific linked peptide. Thus, Applicants believe that the Examiner's rejection is now moot.


Conclusion

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

for  *Reg # 42,613*
Eric K. Steffe
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 36,688

Date: January 28, 2005
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600